

Executive Summary

2002 303(d) Report on Impaired Waters

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulation 40 CFR Section 130.7(d) (1) promulgated in July, 1992, requires each state to submit a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Priority List to EPA in even numbered years. This list, contained in this report, is a compilation of waters in the state, into a two-part "Impaired Waters List". Impaired waters are "water quality limited" and most still require the development of TMDLs. Some waters, found in Part 1C of the list, are either fully or partially impaired due to natural causes. Further studies of each water in Part 1C, through TMDL studies, must be made in order to determine whether or not a TMDL is applicable and/or new water quality standards should be adopted for those waters.

Candidates for de-listing from the Impaired Waters List are found in Section III of the report. Waters included in the 1999 Consent Decree are compiled in Section IV, and can also be found either on the Impaired Waters List, or in Section III of this report if data has affirmed that they are not impaired. Seven of these 200 waters were not assessed by the Year 2000 and are not included in this report.

The assessment of Virginia's waters was based on the evaluations of water quality data from government agencies and citizen monitoring, fish and shellfish consumption actions, and Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit information. Using this information for the assessment period of January 1, 1996 through December 31, 2000, stream segments or portions of tidal waters were assigned to categories for each assessed designated use. These categories are:

- Fully Supporting Designated Use
- Fully Supporting But Threatened - Due to a change in EPA's definition of "threatened" these waters are called "Waters of Concern" in the 2002 303(d) report.
- Partially Supporting
- Not Supporting

Waters are defined as impaired when they do not support, or only partially support, one or more of five designated uses, (aquatic life, fish consumption,

shellfish consumption, swimming, and drinking water). Support of the designated uses is based on compliance with Virginia's Water Quality Standards, which include numeric and narrative criteria.

Table 1 shows the number of impaired segments reported for the first time in Part 1A of the Impaired Waters List in each of the last three 303(d) Reports, and the 2002 report, for estuaries, rivers (and streams), and lakes. Waters in Part 1A, are impaired for uses other than shellfish consumption, and require development of a TMDL. First listings in the Year 2002 totaled 341 in the final 2002 report. Twenty-five of these newly listed segments assessed as “threatened” (i.e. Waters of Concern) in 1998, but additional data resulted in an assessment of impaired in 2002.

**Table 1: Impaired Segments Reported in Part 1A,
Initial Year Listed, 1994 - 2002**

Year and Number of Impaired Segments	1994	1996	1998	2002	TOTALS
Estuaries	6	12	25	55	98
Rivers & Streams	42	98	135	267	542
Lakes	0	0	3	19	22
Totals	48	110	163	341	662

Appendix B has an Integrated List of the Assessed Waters in Virginia. All of the assessed waters are divided into one of six categories in the Integrated List, including “Waters of Concern”.

Virginia notified each locality, Department of Health District, Planning District Commission, and Soil and Water Conservation District that has one or more impaired waters within their jurisdictional boundaries. Public meetings were held and comments received. Responses to public comments were submitted to EPA and are posted at www.deq.state.va.us/water/303d.html. Subsequent changes to TMDL development dates were made in response to later comments from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This report was then resubmitted to EPA for final approval.